Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, Bhadravati, Shivamogga dist; Karnataka

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Info under following headings:

Location, address, phone, how to get there. Greatness of this temple. Legends and history. Architecture of temple deities. Subdeities daily rituals and poojas special poojas and rituals festivals, facilities for devotees...like accommodation etc. Donation info and bank acct number etc. Nearby temples. Other tourist attractions. Nearby budget hotels. Any other info...etc

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Ref: AI Overview

The Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Temple in Bhadravati, Karnataka, is a 13th-century Hoysala-era monument (circa 1250 CE) renowned for its intricate, detailed stone carvings and, in some places, unfinished, yet stunning craftsmanship. Located in the Shivamogga district, this ASI-protected temple features three shrines (trikuta) dedicated to Lakshmi Narasimha, Venugopala, and Purushottama.

Key Details of the Temple:

- **Architectural Style:** Built in the Hoysala style, it features detailed carvings, often compared to the Chennakesava Temple at Belur.
- **Deities:** The main deity is Lakshmi Narasimha, with shrines for Venugopala and Purushottama, a form of Lord Vishnu.
- **History:** Commissioned by Bommanna Dandanayaka, a commander under Hoysala King Vira Someshwara.
- **Location:** Situated in the industrial town of Bhadravathi, close to the Bhadra River.
- **Structure:** It is a *trikuta* (three-celled) temple, though some parts are considered, historically, to have been left unfinished.
- **Significance:** It is an protected monument of national importance under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Visitors often note the temple's peaceful atmosphere and exquisite architecture. It is accessible via Bh Road in Kanaka Nagar, Bhadravathi.

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Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, Bhadravati (also known as Lakshminarasimha Temple or Lakshmi Narasimha Devastana).

This is a 13th-century Hoysala-era temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu in His Narasimha form, located in the industrial town of Bhadravati (now often spelled Bhadravathi) in Shivamogga (Shimoga) District, Karnataka.

It's a protected monument under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), renowned for its exquisite Vesara-style architecture, intricate carvings depicting Vaishnava legends alongside elements from Shaivism, Shaktism, and Vedic deities.

Location, Address, Phone, How to Get There

Location: Bhadravati (old town area), on the east bank of the Bhadra River, Shivamogga District, Karnataka. It's about 20 km southeast of Shivamogga city and ~255 km northwest of Bengaluru.

Address: Kanaka Nagar, Bh Road, Bhadravati, Karnataka 577301 (near old town; coordinates approx. RPX2+C7R).

Phone/Contact: Temple-specific direct line not widely published, but priest/archaka contacts include:

Srinivas Murthy (Archakar): +91-6364168515

Shyamanna (Archakar): +91-9902776395

Another supporting contact: +91-6360428499 (general inquiry)

For updates, reach out via local ASI office or Karnataka Tourism helpline.

How to Get There:

By Air: Nearest airport is Shivamogga Airport (~15-20 km) or Hubli Airport (~170 km). From Bengaluru International Airport (~280 km), drive or take a flight + road.

By Train: Nearest station is Bhadravati Railway Station or Birur Junction (major stop on Bengaluru-Hubli line). From Shivamogga station (~20 km), take auto/bus.

By Road: Well-connected via NH-69 (from Bengaluru ~6-7 hours via Hassan-Chikmagalur-Shivamogga route). KSRTC buses from Bengaluru, Shivamogga, or Mangalore stop at Bhadravati. From Bhadravati bus stand/railway station, take an auto-rickshaw or walk/taxi ~1-2 km through old town narrow streets to the temple (about 1.5 km from main road in some descriptions). Self-drive is easy; locals can guide if needed.

Greatness of This Temple

This ancient Hoysala gem is celebrated for its spiritual potency as a abode of Lord Narasimha (fierce yet protective form of Vishnu, destroyer of evil and guardian of devotees like Prahlada).

It's a regular pilgrim center with an annual fair, drawing devotees for protection from harm, courage, and relief from troubles.

The temple's serene riverside setting amid the Bhadra enhances its calming energy.

As an ASI-protected site, it preserves 800+ years of devotion, making it a "hidden jewel" of Hoysala heritage — less crowded than Belur/Halebidu but equally magnificent in artistry and sanctity.

Legends and History

History: Built around 1250 CE by Hoysala ruler Vira Someshwara (grandson of Vishnuvardhana).

It's a trikuta (three-shrined) temple on a star-shaped (nakshatra-style) platform. Original shikharas were ruined and restored conically. Under ASI protection since renovation efforts (noted around 2019).

Legends: Tied to Vishnu's avatars — especially Narasimha protecting Prahlada from demon Hiranyakashipu.
Some associate the region with Varaha avatar rescuing Bhudevi (Earth goddess) from Hiranyaksha, forming rivers like Bhadra.
Local lore links it to ancient Vaishnava traditions; one story mentions Arjuna visiting.
The temple blends Vaishnava focus with broader Hindu iconography.

Architecture of Temple & Deities

Classic Hoysala Vesara style (blend of Dravidian/Nagara) using soapstone for intricate carvings on walls, pillars, ceilings — depicting daily life, myths, and deities.

East-facing trikuta layout: three sanctums sharing a common mandapa, on a stellate (star-shaped) platform with one entrance.

Features two-tier eaves, miniature towers (aedicula), and exceptional stellate structures. Shikharas restored.

Main Deities:

Central: Lakshminarasimha (Lord Narasimha with Lakshmi, in a relaxed protective posture).

Other two garbhagrihas: Venugopala (Krishna playing flute) and Vishnu-Purushottama.

Subdeities

Includes idols of: Lord Krishna, Lord Purushottama, Lord Ganesha, Goddess Sharadamba (Saraswati), and reliefs of Dakshinamurti, Bhairava, Sarasvati, Brahma, Surya, Harihara (Shiva-Vishnu combined), and others from Vaishnava, Shaiva, Shakta traditions.

Daily Poojas and Rituals (Timings & Details)

The temple follows traditional Vaishnava/Hoysala-style daily worship.

Timings vary slightly across sources (due to seasonal/ASI maintenance), but the most consistent pattern is:

Morning Session: Opens around 6:00 AM (some sources say 6:30–7:30 AM) and closes around 12:00–1:00 PM (or up to 12:30–2:00 PM on some days).

Evening Session: Reopens around 4:30–6:30 PM and closes at 8:00–9:00 PM.

Key daily rituals include:

Suprabhata Seva (waking up the deity with prayers) — Around 6:00 AM.

Archana / Nitya Pooja (flower offerings, chanting, aarti) — Morning slot, e.g., 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Madhyana Pooja (midday worship/abhishekam if performed) — Around 12:30 PM.

Rathri Pooja / Evening Aarti — Around 7:30 PM, with closing rituals.

Common daily practices:
Abhishekam (ritual bathing of the deity with milk, water, etc.).
Archana (offering flowers, tulsi, fruits).
Aarti (camphor waving).

Devotees can participate in simple prayers like Narasimha Pranama, Narasimha Mahamantra, Dasavatara Stotra, or request Divya Prabandham recitation by priests on special request.

The temple remains functional with regular local devotees; priests (lifelong celibates as per tradition) perform with devotion. No elaborate online booking noted — walk-in or call archakas.

Special Poojas and Rituals

Special/seva poojas are performed on request or during auspicious days:

- Abhishekam (special bathing) — Often requested for protection/health.

- Special Archana / Homam — For specific intentions (e.g., Narasimha protection mantras).
- During festivals like Narasimha Jayanti (April/May), Vaikunta Ekadashi (Dec/Jan), or annual fair — Elaborate processions, special abhishekams, and utsava (procession deity worship).

Other: Narasimha-specific prayers for courage, removal of obstacles/evil influences.

No fixed "special sevas list" with prices is available online (unlike larger temples like Yadadri or Simhachalam).
Devotees typically offer dakshina directly to priests (nominal amounts, e.g., ₹100–300 for archana/abhishekam based on similar Hoysala/ASI temples).

For accurate/current charges:

Contact the archakas directly (best option):
Srinivas Murthy (Archakar): +91-6364168515
Shyamanna (Archakar): +91-9902776395
General inquiry: +91-6360428499

Festivals

- Narasimha Jayanti (main festival, celebrates Narasimha avatar; special poojas, processions).
- Vaikunta Ekadashi (Dec/Jan; grand Vaishnava celebrations).
- Annual fair/Jathre with cultural events.
- Other Hindu festivals are observed with fervor.

Facilities for Devotees (Like Accommodation, Etc.)

Basic temple facilities: Clean premises, no major on-site lodging/meals noted. Prasadam available.
For stays, use nearby Bhadravati/Shivamogga options. Devotees often day-visit from Shivamogga.

Donation Info and Bank Acct Number Etc.

No public bank details widely listed (typical for ASI-protected temples; donations direct at temple hundi or via priests).
For large contributions, contact temple archakas or local trust. Avoid unverified online transfers.

Nearby Temples

- Amrutheshwara Temple (Amruthapura, ~30 km; another ornate Hoysala Shiva temple).
- Sharada Devi Temple (in Bhadravati area).
- Rameshwara Temple (Koodli, ~ nearby; at Tunga-Bhadra confluence).

- Other Hoysala sites in Shivamogga/Chikmagalur districts.

Other Tourist Attractions

- Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary & Tiger Reserve (nearby; safaris, nature).
- Bhadra Dam & Reservoir (scenic views).
- Gondi, Kenchammanna Gudda, Gangur spots.
- Paper/steel mill heritage (industrial history).
- Proximity to Jog Falls, Mullayanagiri, etc. (day trips).

Nearby Budget Hotels

Bhadravati has basic lodges (₹800-2000/night):

- Sree Balaji Lodge (~ basic, central).
- Pavana Enterprises (value stay).
- Other budget options via Justdial/Goibibo (e.g., lodges near bus stand).
- Better choices in Shivamogga (~20 km): Many budget hotels ₹1000-2500. Book via MakeMyTrip/Agoda for deals.

Any Other Info

Best visited in winter/monsoon for pleasant weather and greenery. Temple in the old town — narrow lanes, so comfortable footwear advised. Photography allowed outside the sanctum. Combine with Shivamogga/Chikmagalur trip for Hoysala trail. Entry free; maintain silence and decorum.

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Ref: Google Gemini

The Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Bhadravati is a 13th-century architectural marvel and a significant spiritual hub in the Shimoga district.

It stands as a testament to the intricate craftsmanship of the Hoysala dynasty.

Location and Travel Information

* **Address**: Kanaka Nagar, BH Road (Old Town), Bhadravati, Karnataka 577301.

* **Phone**: +(91)-6360428499 (Please note, temple office hours are typically during morning and evening pooja timings).

* **How to Get There:**

* **By Rail**: Bhadravati Railway Station is just 2 km away.

* **By Road**: Bhadravati is well-connected to Shivamogga (20 km) and Bengaluru (255 km). It lies on NH 69.

* **By Air**: The nearest airport is Shivamogga (Sogane) Airport, approximately 15 km away.

Greatness, History, and Legends

* **The Legend**: Mythologically, the town was known as Vankipura, named after Sage Vanki who performed penance here.

It is believed that when Lord Vishnu took the Varaha avatar to rescue Bhudevi, the Tunga and Bhadra rivers were formed from the impact of his tusks.

* **History**: The temple was built in 1224 AD by King Vira Narasimha II (or Vira Someshwara) of the Hoysala Empire.

It remains one of the best-preserved examples of late Hoysala architecture in the Malnad region.

Architecture and Deities

* **Architecture**: It is a Trikutachala (three-shrine) temple built on a Jagati (raised star-shaped platform).

Unlike many Hoysala temples, the outer walls have two-tier decorative plans with soapstone carvings of various deities and scenes from the Puranas.

* **Deities**:

* **Main Deity**: Sri Lakshmi Narasimha (Lord Vishnu in his half-man, half-lion form with Goddess Lakshmi).

* **North Shrine**: Lord Venugopala (Krishna playing the flute).

* **South Shrine**: Lord Purushottama.

* **Sub-deities**: You can also find smaller shrines or idols of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Sharadamba within the premises.

Daily Rituals, Poojas, and Festivals

* **Timings**: Generally open from 6:00 AM – 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

* **Rituals**: Daily Abhisheka, Archana, and Naivedya are performed. Fridays and Saturdays are considered particularly auspicious for Narasimha.

* **Special Poojas**: Swathi Nakshatra pooja and Sudarshana Homa are conducted periodically.

* **Major Festivals:**

- * Narasimha Jayanti: The biggest celebration of the year.
- * Vaikunta Ekadashi: Attracts thousands of devotees.
- * Dussehra & Rathotsava: Special processions and chariot festivals.

Facilities and Donations

* **Facilities**: The temple has a large open compound for parking and a peaceful area for Pradakshina.

* **Accommodation**: While the temple does not have dedicated guest houses, plenty of budget hotels are available within 2 km (e.g., Hotel Padma Residency, Keerthana Residency).

* **Donations**: You can contribute to the temple trust for Annadaana or renovation.

* **Note**: Always verify bank details directly at the temple office. Most Hoysala-era temples under the HR&CE department or local trusts accept UPI/Bank transfers via official QR codes posted at the temple counter.

Nearby Attractions

* **Temples**:

* **Amrutesvara Temple, Amruthapura**: (Approx. 40 km) Another stunning Hoysala masterpiece.

* **Koodli**: (Approx. 20 km) The confluence of Tunga and Bhadra rivers with ancient temples.

* **Tourism**:

* Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary & Lakkavalli Dam: (Approx. 25 km).

* Sakrebyle Elephant Camp: (Approx. 35 km).

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Photos

Entrance with stambha

Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, Bhadravati

Hindu deities and decorative miniature towers

Reliefs, pilasters..etc

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Videos

Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, Bhadravati (4 min):

https://youtu.be/w3YFG2qY6rk?si=yHuhSn_RiTowzWzf

800 years old Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, Bhadravati (8 min):

https://youtu.be/WjKbGrjlgMI?si=3GsIZYGNW4gGYJIa

Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, Bhadravati - Parichaya (6 min):

https://youtu.be/jr3KNoaLp8I?si=QzltW-b5M9LXN4vF

Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, Bhadravati - travelogue (14 min):

https://youtu.be/bHmKm2T-LMo?si=ylcYAuS2VWXGQcCY

Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, Bhadravati - vlog (22 min):

https://youtu.be/hRYuV7qA3ZM?si=7l3VNU99chb2_u6f

Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Temple, Bhadravati - Dharma Degula Darshana (4 min):

https://youtu.be/X2j6ZRcmWbA?si=KQ-eHlsK-AMZW3d2

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
February 4, 2026

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